CLAIMS

1. A method of screening for and /or diagnosis of a cardiovascular disorder in a subject, comprising the steps of:

   a) detecting and /or quantifying the level of a polypeptide in a biological sample from said subject, wherein the polypeptide is selected from:

      i) a polypeptide comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:3;

      ii) a variant, with at least 75% sequence identity, having one or more amino acid substitutions, deletions or insertions relative to the amino acid sequence shown in SEQ ID NO: 3; and

      iii) a fragment of a polypeptide as defined in i) or ii) above which is a least ten amino acids long; and

   b) comparing said level to that of a control sample,

   wherein an increase in said level relative to that of the control is indicative of a cardiovascular disorder.

2. A method of predicting a cardiovascular disorder in a subject, comprising the steps of:

   a) detecting and /or quantifying the level of a polypeptide in a biological sample from said subject, wherein the polypeptide is selected from:

      i) a polypeptide comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:3;

      ii) a variant, with at least 75% sequence identity, having one or more amino acid substitutions, deletions or insertions relative to the amino acid sequence shown in SEQ ID NO: 3; and

      iii) a fragment of a polypeptide as defined in i) or ii) above which is a least ten amino acids long; and

   b) comparing said level to that of a control sample,

   wherein an increase in said level relative to that of the control indicates a risk of developing a cardiovascular disorder.

3. The method of claim 1 or 2, wherein said cardiovascular disorder is Coronary Artery Disease (CAD).

4. The method of any one of claims 1 to 3, wherein said biological sample is plasma.

5. The method of any one of claims 1 to 4, wherein said polypeptide is detected and /or quantified by mass spectrometry.

6. The method of any one of claims 1 to 4, wherein said polypeptide is detected and /or quantified by Enzyme-Linked Immuno Sorbent Assay.

7. The method of any one of claims 1 to 6, wherein said detecting and /or quantifying the level of a polypeptide in a biological sample is performed ex vivo.

8. An isolated polypeptide comprising an amino acid sequence selected from the group consisting of SEQ ID NOs:1-6.

9. The polypeptide of claim 8, wherein said polypeptide is fused to a heterologous polypeptide sequence.

10. An anti-Cardiovascular disorder Plasma Polypeptide antibody that selectively binds to a polypeptide comprising the amino acid sequence selected from the group consisting of SEQ ID NOs:1-6.

11. A method of binding an antibody to a Cardiovascular disorder Plasma Polypeptide comprising the steps of:

i) contacting the antibody of claim 9 with a biological sample under conditions that permit antibody binding; and

ii) removing contaminants.

12. The method of claim 11, wherein said antibody is attached to a label group.

13. The method of claim 11, wherein said sample is human plasma.

14. The use of at least one polypeptide selected from:

i) a polypeptide comprising the amino acid sequence selected from the group consisting of SEQ ID NOs:1 to 3;

ii) a variant, with at least 75% sequence identity, having one or more amino acid substitutions, deletions or insertions relative to the amino acid sequence shown in SEQ ID NOs:1 to 3; and

iii) a fragment of a polypeptide as defined in i) or ii) above which is a least ten amino acids long;

in the preparation of a medicament for the prophylaxis and/or treatment of cardiovascular disorders or in the preparation of a drug-eluting stent.

15. The use of an antibody from claim 10 in the preparation of a medicament for the prophylaxis and/or treatment of cardiovascular disorders or in the preparation of a drug-eluting stent.

16. A method of identifying a Cardiovascular disorder Plasma Polypeptide modulator comprising the steps of:
    i) contacting a test compound with a polypeptide selected from the group consisting of SEQ ID NOs:1-6 under sample conditions permissive for at least one CPP biological activity;
    ii) determining the level of said at least one CPP biological activity;
    iii) comparing said level to that of a control sample lacking said test compound; and
    iv) selecting a test compound which causes said level to change for further testing as a CPP modulator for the prophylactic and/or therapeutic treatment of cardiovascular disorders.

17. An isolated polynucleotide comprising the sequence of SEQ ID NO:7.

18. A method of identifying a modulator of a cardiovascular disorder comprising the steps of:
    (a) administering a candidate agent to a non-human test animal which is predisposed to be affected or which is affected by the cardiovascular disorder;
    (b) administering the candidate agent of (a) to a matched control non-human animal not predisposed to be affected or not being affected by the cardiovascular disorder;
    (c) detecting and /or quantifying the level of a polypeptide in a biological sample obtained from the non-human test animal of step (a) and from the control animal of step (b), wherein the polypeptide is selected from:
        i) a polypeptide comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 3;
        ii) a variant, with at least 75% sequence identity, having one or more amino acid substitutions, deletions or insertions relative to the amino acid sequence shown in SEQ ID NO: 3; and
        iii) a fragment of a polypeptide as defined in i) or ii) above which is a least ten amino acids long; and
    (d) comparing the levels of the polypeptide of step (c); wherein a displacement of the level of the polypeptide in the biological sample obtained from the non-human test animal towards the level of the polypeptide in the biological sample obtained from the control animal indicates that the candidate agent is a modulator of the cardiovascular disorder.

19. The method of claim 18, wherein the non-human test animal which is predisposed to be affected or which is affected by the cardiovascular disorder comprises an increased plasma level of a polypeptide selected from:

i) a polypeptide comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 3;

ii) a variant, with at least 75% sequence identity, having one or more amino acid substitutions, deletions or insertions relative to the amino acid sequence shown in SEQ ID NO: 3; and

iii) a fragment of a polypeptide as defined in i) or ii) above which is a least ten amino acids long.

20. A method for monitoring the efficacy of a treatment of a subject having or at risk of developing a cardiovascular disorder with an agent, the method comprising:

(a) obtaining a pre-administration biological sample from the subject prior to administration of the agent;

(b) detecting and /or quantifying the level of a polypeptide in the biological sample from said subject, wherein the polypeptide is selected from:

i) a polypeptide comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 3;

ii) a variant, with at least 75% sequence identity, having one or more amino acid substitutions, deletions or insertions relative to the amino acid sequence shown in SEQ ID NO: 3; and

iii) a fragment of a polypeptide as defined in i) or ii) above which is a least ten amino acids long; and

(c) obtaining one or more post-administration biological samples from the subject;

(d) detecting the level of the polypeptide in the post-administration sample or samples;

(e) comparing the level of the polypeptide in the pre-administration sample with the level of the polypeptide in the post- administration sample; and

(f) adjusting the administration of the agent accordingly.